

METHOD FOR ATTRACTING GAME ANIMALS USING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED PLANTS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. Field of the Invention.

This invention relates to the use and marketing of genetically engineered seeds. More particularly, this invention is directed toward a method for luring game animals using food plots planted with a variety of genetically engineered plants. Yet more
10 particularly, the present invention also includes a method for packaging and marketing a variety of genetically engineered seeds for the purpose of creating a food plot to lure game animals.

2. Prior Art.

15 Hunters as well as individuals who enjoy watching wildlife often plant food plots in order to enhance the wildlife habitat and attract additional wildlife. This is typically done by selecting an area of land with sufficient sunlight which is also adjacent to cover such as trees or brush. The individual plants seeds of plants selected to attract the desired wildlife. Planting may be accomplished following tillage of the selected site, or it may be
20 accomplished without any tillage. The following is a partial list of the types of plants and the wildlife they typically attract.

PLANT	WILDLIFE ATTRACTED
Alfalfa	Deer, turkey, rabbit
Bahia	Turkey
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Deer, turkey
Brome	Deer
Buckwheat	Quail, pheasant, dove, duck, deer

Canola	Deer, turkey, waterfowl
Chufas	Deer, turkey, hog
Clover	Deer, turkey, rabbit
Corn	Deer, turkey, quail
Cowpeas	Deer, birds
Deer Food	Deer
Japanese Millet	Quail, dove, duck
Lespedeza	Quail, other game birds, deer
Rape seed	Hogs
Sorghum	Quail, pheasant, turkey, dove
Sudangrass	
Soybeans	Wildlife, deer
Switchgrass	Quail, turkey, deer
Wheat	Deer, turkey

The plants for the food plots have traditionally used non-genetically engineered seed. Because of this, once the plants germinate and begin growing, it becomes burdensome and costly to remove unwanted weeds from the food plot. These weeds may
5 choke and compete with the desired plants, thus killing the plants or stunting their growth and in turn reducing the yield of food for the wildlife.

The methods traditionally available for removing the unwanted weeds include physically removing them from the food plot. This involves a great amount of manual labor. Another alternative is to use selective herbicides that control the weeds without
10 killing the desired food plants. Use of multiple herbicides can be somewhat cumbersome in that the type of weeds to be removed must be identified and then the proper herbicide selected, if available. Further, there may be a variety of types of unwanted weeds. Therefore, one herbicide may not kill all of the unwanted weeds. This requires more than one type of herbicide be used. This adds to the cost of killing the weeds. Also, for
15 mixed-seed food plots, a herbicide that is selective to one of the desired crop plants may be toxic to another.

Over the years, broad spectrum herbicides such as glyphosate, glufosinate ammonium, the sulfonylurea class of herbicide chemistries, the imidazole class of herbicide chemistries and other classes of herbicide chemistry have come into existence. These broad spectrum herbicides kill most types of plant life they come into contact with.

- 5 They are typically used to kill vegetation when there is no need to differentiate between desirable and undesirable plants in the spray application area.

However, recent advancements in genetic engineering have developed many types of crops, such as soybeans, canola and corn, which are genetically altered to withstand the glyphosate based herbicides or other types of broad spectrum herbicides. This
10 enables farmers to plant their crops of soybeans, corn or other crops. Then when weeds or other undesirable plants begin to grow in the field, the entire field is treated with a herbicide that kills all the unwanted plants and the field is left with only the desired genetically altered plants remaining.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Due to the shortcomings of the prior art, it is an objective of the present invention to provide a method for attracting wildlife using genetically engineered seed.

5 Another objective of the present invention is to provide a method for attracting wildlife using a food plot wherein the genetically engineered seeds are selected such that a broad spectrum herbicide such as one based on glyphosate can be applied to kill unwanted plants and weeds yet leave the desired plants in place. This provides a cost effective and labor efficient method to weed the food plot and maximize the yield of the food plat. This in turn will provide more food for the wildlife and attract larger numbers
10 of wildlife.

It is a further objective of the present invention to provide a method of packaging and marketing a selection of various genetically engineered seeds for use in attracting wildlife. The exact ratios of the seeds packages together will vary depending upon the
15 climate, geography and desired wildlife to attract.

Other objects, features, and advantages will be apparent to persons of ordinary skill in the art in view of the following detailed description of preferred embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The present invention is a method for attracting wildlife through the planting of herbicide tolerant genetically engineered seed species in a food plot. The invention includes the mixing of various types of herbicide tolerant genetically engineered seeds to match the geographic and climatic conditions as well as the type of wildlife desired. The invention addresses the mixing of all seed species that are resistant to herbicides as a consequence of genetic manipulation through laboratory induced gene transformation efforts utilizing recombinant DNA technology. While numerous crop seed mixtures are presently available as planting seed to produce plants which serve as a food source for wild animals, none of the presently available mixtures are tolerant to broad spectrum herbicides. The result is that many weeds (i.e. undesirable plants) come up with the desirable plants and compete with the desirable plants for resources (space, water, sunlight and nutrients). The result is decreased production of the desirable plants with an attendant decrease in wildlife food per area of planting. While it is possible to maintain weed free wildlife plots without the use of herbicides, the investment of time and resources needed to do so through mechanical means makes it impractical.

The product as packaged in accordance with the present invention would be a package containing two or more genetically engineered seeds. The ratio of mixture of the different types of seeds could be varied as required to meet the soil conditions, climatic, geographic or other needs of the location of the food plot. Likewise, the ratio could also be manipulated to match the type of wildlife desired.

The end user would purchase the premixed genetically engineered seed to fit the application intended. The user would then select an open piece of land adjacent to

wildlife habitat. Typically, the food plot is approximately one quarter of an acre for every ten acres of habitat. It is also important that the food plot have at least 50% sunshine. Therefore, continuously shady areas are not typically used. The seed can be planted, either by broadcast seeding or by burying it in the ground. Once the seed has
5 germinated and sprouted, the area can be sprayed with a broad spectrum herbicide such as glyphosate, glufosinate, or other chemical for which genetically engineered plant tolerance has been developed. This will kill off all the unwanted plants or weeds while the desired plants would remain. The presence of the plant and its fruits would provide a food source for the wildlife living in the adjacent habitat and in turn would attract
10 additional wildlife to the area.

The foregoing specifications and drawings are only illustrative of the preferred embodiments of the present invention. They should not be interpreted as limiting the scope of the attached claims. Those skilled in the arts will be able to come up with equivalent embodiments of the present invention without departing from the spirit and
15 scope thereof.